GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1258
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
SALE OF GENERIC MEDICINES AT HIGHER PRICES IN THE MARKET
RAMPAL SINGH;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report in the Nav Bharat Times ofMay 31, 2002 regarding generic medicines being sold in the retail market at over ten times their cost in the whole sale market, like the corresponding branded medicines and formulations ;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that generic drugs are made available to patients at reasonable prices especially in respect of medicines used for treatment of diseases like T.B. & Malaria ;

(c) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to make amendments in 'Drugs prices control policy' in view of considerable difference between prices of brand name and generic drugs to provide essential generic drugs in all primary health centres to make them available to lower sections ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS(SHRI S.S. DHINDSA)

(a) to (e) :- For a Scheduled formulation, a manufacturer is required to follow the price fixed by the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control)Order, 1995. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves. However, the Government may, if it considers necessary, so to do in public interest, fix or revise the retail price of any formulation including a non-Scheduled formulation.

Government have announced the Pharmaceutical Policy − 2002 in February,2002. The main objectives of this Policy are, inter-alia, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices with the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. A copy of the Policy is available in the Parliament Library.

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